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SENATE BILL 5802

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen and Tom

Read first time 02/01/2007. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to age limitations for driver's license renewal and  
2 expiration; amending RCW 46.20.181; and reenacting and amending RCW  
3 46.20.120.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.20.120 and 2005 c 314 s 306 and 2005 c 61 s 2 are  
6 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

7 An applicant for a new or renewed driver's license must  
8 successfully pass a driver licensing examination to qualify for a  
9 driver's license. The department shall give examinations at places and  
10 times reasonably available to the people of this state.

11 (1) **Waiver.** The department may waive:

12 (a) All or any part of the examination of any person under the age  
13 of seventy applying for the renewal of a driver's license unless the  
14 department determines that the applicant is not qualified to hold a  
15 driver's license under this title; ((or))

16 (b) The knowledge part of the examination, as described in RCW  
17 46.20.130(1), of any person over the age of sixty-nine applying for the  
18 renewal of a driver's license unless the department determines that the

1 applicant is not qualified to hold a driver's license under this title;  
2 or  
3 (c) All or any part of the examination involving operating a motor  
4 vehicle if the applicant:  
5 (i) Surrenders a valid driver's license issued by the person's  
6 previous home state; or  
7 (ii) Provides for verification a valid driver's license issued by  
8 a foreign driver licensing jurisdiction with which the department has  
9 an informal agreement under RCW 46.20.125; and  
10 (iii) Is otherwise qualified to be licensed.  
11 (2) **Fee.** Each applicant for a new license must pay an examination  
12 fee of twenty dollars.  
13 (a) The examination fee is in addition to the fee charged for  
14 issuance of the license.  
15 (b) "New license" means a license issued to a driver:  
16 (i) Who has not been previously licensed in this state; or  
17 (ii) Whose last previous Washington license has been expired for  
18 more than five years.  
19 (3) An application for driver's license renewal may be submitted by  
20 means of:  
21 (a) Personal appearance before the department; or  
22 (b) Mail or electronic commerce, if permitted by rule of the  
23 department and if the applicant did not renew his or her license by  
24 mail or by electronic commerce when it last expired. However, the  
25 department may accept an application for renewal of a driver's license  
26 submitted by means of mail or electronic commerce only if specific  
27 authority and funding is provided for this purpose by June 30, 2004, in  
28 the omnibus transportation appropriations act.  
29 (4) A person whose license expired or will expire while he or she  
30 is living outside the state, may:  
31 (a) Apply to the department to extend the validity of his or her  
32 license for no more than twelve months. If the person establishes to  
33 the department's satisfaction that he or she is unable to return to  
34 Washington before the date his or her license expires, the department  
35 shall extend the person's license. The department may grant  
36 consecutive extensions, but in no event may the cumulative total of  
37 extensions exceed twelve months. An extension granted under this

1 section does not change the expiration date of the license for purposes  
2 of RCW 46.20.181. The department shall charge a fee of five dollars  
3 for each license extension;

4 (b) Apply to the department to renew his or her license by mail or,  
5 if permitted by rule of the department, by electronic commerce even if  
6 subsection (3)(b) of this section would not otherwise allow renewal by  
7 that means. If the person establishes to the department's satisfaction  
8 that he or she is unable to return to Washington within twelve months  
9 of the date that his or her license expires, the department shall renew  
10 the person's license by mail or, if permitted by rule of the  
11 department, by electronic commerce.

12 (5) If a qualified person submits an application for renewal under  
13 subsection (3)(b) or (4)(b) of this section, he or she is not required  
14 to pass an examination nor provide an updated photograph. A license  
15 renewed by mail or by electronic commerce that does not include a  
16 photograph of the licensee must be labeled "not valid for  
17 identification purposes."

18 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.20.181 and 1999 c 308 s 3 are each amended to read  
19 as follows:

20 (1) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, every  
21 driver's license expires on the fifth anniversary of the licensee's  
22 birthdate following the issuance of the license.

23 (2) A person may renew his or her license on or before the  
24 expiration date by submitting an application as prescribed by the  
25 department and paying a fee of twenty-five dollars. This fee includes  
26 the fee for the required photograph.

27 (3) A person renewing his or her driver's license more than sixty  
28 days after the license has expired shall pay a penalty fee of ten  
29 dollars in addition to the renewal fee, unless his or her license  
30 expired when:

31 (a) The person was outside the state and he or she renews the  
32 license within sixty days after returning to this state; or

33 (b) The person was incapacitated and he or she renews the license  
34 within sixty days after the termination of the incapacity.

35 (4)(a) During the period from July 1, 2000, to July 1, 2006, the  
36 department may issue or renew a driver's license for a period other  
37 than five years, or may extend by mail a license that has already been

1 issued, in order to evenly distribute, as nearly as possible, the  
2 yearly renewal rate of licensed drivers. The fee for a driver's  
3 license issued or renewed for a period other than five years, or that  
4 has been extended by mail, is five dollars for each year that the  
5 license is issued, renewed, or extended. The department may adopt any  
6 rules as are necessary to carry out this subsection.

7 (b) The driver's license of a person over the age of seventy-nine  
8 expires two years after the licensee's birthdate following the issuance  
9 of the license.

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